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Message Text

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60
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /164 W
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 753
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9828

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
AGSJC PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY SESSION,
NOVEMBER 28, 1973

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PLENARY SESSION OF NOVEMBER 28, 1973 HEARD STATEMENTS FROM SOVIET REP KHLESTOV (INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT SEPTEL) AND NETHERLANDS REP QUARLES (TEXT IN VIENNA 9787). SOVIET STATEMENT WAS MODERATE IN TONE, AND LAID EMPHASIS ON THREE BASIC ELEMENTS OF PACT PROPOSAL: INCLUSION OF GROUND, AIR, AND NUCLEAR FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN REDUCTIONS; SIMULTANEOUS REDUCTION OF FOREIGN AND NATIONAL ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS; AND REDUCTION BY EQUAL PER-
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CENTAGES PRECEDED BY A REDUCTION OF EQUAL QUANTITIES.

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NETHERLANDS STATEMENT WAS A REITEATION AND EXPANSION
OF ARGUMENTS FOR ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL. END
SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET STATEMENT BEGAN BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD
FOCUS UPON THREE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT
TABLED BY THE SOCIALIST PARTICIPANTS ON NOV 8. THE
FIRST OF THESE WAS THAT SINCE THE FORCES IN THE
REDUCTION AREA INCLUDE FOREIGN AND NATIONAL GROUND,
AIR, AND NUCLEAR FORCES, THEY FORMED A SINGLE MILITARY
COMPLEX, AND INTERACT CLOSELY SO THAT ONE COULD NOT
EVALUATE OR REDUCE ANY OF THEM IN ISOLATION. KHLESTOV
WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PRESENT BALANCE IN CENTRAL
EUROPE HAD TAKEN SHAPE HISTORICALLY OVER A LONG PERIOD
OF TIME, IN WHICH EACH SIDE HAD ASSESSED THE REQUIRE-
MENTS OF ITS SECURITY. THIS HAD PRODUCED A RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN NATO AND PACT FORCES WHICH PRESERVED
SECURITY FOR BOTH SIDES. HE QUOTED STATEMENTS BY
MCNAMARA, ROGERS, RUSH, SCHLESINGER, ANF FRG DEFENSE
MINISTER LEBER TO THE EFFECT THAT A BALANCE NOW EXISTS
IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THEREFORE, THERE COULD BE
REDUCTIONS OF ALL TYPES OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AS
LONG AS THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT DISTURBED.
KHLESTOV CONTINUED THAT THE WESTERN DESIRE TO DISCUSS GROUND
FORCES ONLY AND TO HAVE THE EAST REDUCE MORE, ON THE BASIS OF SO-
CALLED "DISPARITIES," WAS NOT REALISTIC. INDEED, AIR FORCES AND
OTHER FORCE ELEMENTS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE THE "MAIN
STRIKE MEANS" OF CONTEMPORARY FORCES, AND PRESENTED THE GREATEST
DANGER TO CENTRAL EUROPEAN POPULATIONS. FURTHERMORE, PRESERVING
THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE BUILD-UPS IN AIR FORCES AND UNITS ARMED
WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD GIVE IMPETUS TO AN ARMS RACE.

3. SECOND MAIN SOVIET POINT WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS
REDUCTIONS OF FOREIGN AND NATIONAL FORCES AND ARMAMENTS. KHLESTOV
CITED A STATMENT BY RUSH TO THE EFFECT THAT US ALLIES SUPPLY 25
OF 29 OF NATO'S DIVISIONS, AND NOTED THAT FRG FORCES COMPRISE
ABOUT HALF OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THERE WAS NO
BASIS FOR LEAVING OUT OR POSTPONING INDEFINITELY THE REDUCTIONS OF

NATO'S MOST NUMEROUS COMPONENT. FURTHERMORE, THE PACT APPROACH
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WOULD END IMMEDIATELY THE GROWTH OF TROOPS AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL
EUROPE, AND WOULD LEAD TO REDUCTIONS IN THE BURDEN OF MILITARY
EXPENDITURES.

4. THIRD POINT, WHICH WAS DESIRABILITY OF EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUC-
TIONS PRECEDED BY A REDUCTION OF EQUAL QUANTITIES, RECEIVED ALMOST
NO ARGUMENTATION.

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5. KHLESTOV CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT EVEN A BRIEF GLANCE AT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS SHOWED THAT THEY WERE BASED UPON UNACCEPTABLE CONCEPTS DIRECTED AT SEEKING ONE-SIDED MILITARY ADVANTAGES. AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IF THE WEST IGNORED THE INTERESTS OF ALL AND FAILED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONCEPTS IN THE EASTERN PROPOSAL.

6. NEXT PLENARY WAS SET FOR DECEMBER 5 AT 10:30 A.M.
HUMES

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